



Tuesday March 12, 2024

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca), [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca)

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - [info@migrantrights.ca](mailto:info@migrantrights.ca)

RE: Regularize All Undocumented People and Ensure Permanent Resident Status for All Migrants

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Minister,

[You can use the following bullet points to build your individualised letters. Please make your letter as distinct as possible, but retain the key points about your influence, the context, the problem and what we want.]

- Introduce your organization: stress membership, media reach & anything else indicating that you can and will influence government decision-makers, media opinion and voters.
- Identify the political moment:
  - In December 2021 PM Trudeau made a [mandate letter](#) commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated many times, and most recently the Minister promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024.
  - The migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17, and unless it is replaced thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. Already, [many of them cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-achieve language testing and educational accreditation requirements](#).
  - Landlords are raising rents beyond reach, grocery monopolies are making it harder to put food on our tables, lobbyist driven governments are privatizing healthcare and education. But it’s im/migrants that are being scapegoated for the affordability crisis as racism is used to divide and distract us. The federal government has capped study permits, students

**TEL**  
(514)-481-0277

**FAX**  
(514)-481-2336

**WEB**  
[headandhands.ca](http://headandhands.ca)



can't be with their families and permanent residency has been capped which means more people than ever will remain on temporary and exploitative permits.

- The political choice right now: The federal government needs to choose:
  - Will the Trudeau government fan the flames of anti-immigrant xenophobia or to build a fair society with equal rights for all which is only possible when everyone has the same immigration rights?
  - Will the Trudeau government abandon its commitment to Liberal values of equality, fighting racism, ensuring gender justice and welcoming immigrants and refugees or will it build a fair society with equal rights and permanent resident status for all?
- The key demands: Ensure equal rights for all by:
  - Immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive [regularization program](#) that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately.
    - No caps
    - No restrictions by industry of work or geography
    - No two-step immigration which only gives temporary work permits
  - Create an [interim program for migrant caregivers](#) in Canada to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements;
  - End migrant exploitation by ending tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students; and ensure permanent resident status for all working class people in Canada today.
- How to achieve this: Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#). Please explicitly endorse these principles and attach the briefs to your letter.
- Why this matters to you: Based on your organization, highlight why this is important to your work. For example:
  - It is part of ending systemic racism and ensuring gender equality: Undocumented people and migrants are mostly racialized, low-waged people, often women. Ensuring rights and access for them is part of implementing anti-racist policy and gender equality.
  - Ensure improved labour conditions: Employers of migrant workers, international students and undocumented workers threaten them with deportations to stop them from asserting their rights. This abuse results in overall worsening of working conditions in the labour market. While bad employers prosper, good employers who may be unable or unwilling to hire workers informally or for cash payments are disadvantaged.
  - Ensure public health: Migrants often do not access healthcare until it is absolutely necessary due to the costs. By the time they do, their health conditions are much more complicated, and the burden on the healthcare system is much higher.

**TEL**  
(514)-481-0277

**FAX**  
(514)-481-2336

**WEB**  
headandhands.ca



- Create more effective social policy: Currently, there are no reliable statistics on undocumented people in Canada. An inclusive regularization program will ensure that non-status people enter into everyday life, allowing for more informed and effective social policy to be created.
- Grow the economy at greater rates than cost of processing or settlement services: Most undocumented people pay taxes but their employers, many of whom are very profitable businesses, do not pay statutory remittances. Regularizing 500,000 undocumented people will increase employer CPP and EI contributions by at least \$1.1 billion, just in the first year. As undocumented people achieve stability through permanent residence, they will lay down roots, purchase assets of greater value, and spend more on Main Street. A recent US National Bureau of Economic Research [paper](#) by renowned economists George Borjas and Anthony Edo shows that the economic benefits of effective regulation programs can contribute to substantial improvements to the economy. These economists looked not only at how the lack of status restricts labour market options for undocumented people, but at the monopsony power companies have in the undocumented labour market. Economic inefficiencies are created that not only reduces wages and hiring in the undocumented labour market but in localized labour markets. Companies in these sectors hire fewer documented and undocumented workers and at lower wage rates. These economists analyzed the economic impact of France’s 1981 program that regularized immigration status for 131,360 undocumented workers or 1% of France’s population. This empirical analysis found that this regularization program increased French per capita GDP by 1%. If we apply this methodology to Canada, it would mean as much as \$28 billion in increased economic activity per year.
- Create labour mobility to address shortages where they exist: Undocumented people live and work here. Many are in cash-based jobs, or are under or unemployed. Migrant workers are on employer-tied permits or need to stay in jobs to get permanent resident status. Ending tied permits, removing hours of work restrictions, regularization undocumented people and ensuring permanent resident status for all will increase migrant labour mobility, unlocking their skills and experience enabling them to fill the skills gap and labour market shortage.
- Build on best practices around the world: Between 1996 and 2008, 24 of the 27 EU Member States implemented regularization programs, and some several times. An estimated 5.5 to 6 million people were regularized in that time. The largest programs were the Italian 2002 program that regularized 634,000 people and the Spanish 2005 program that regularized 578,375 people. Last year, Ireland regularized most undocumented people in the country who met a basic residency requirement.
- Respond to a growing voice: Almost every major civil society, labour, health and environmental organization has joined our call for full and permanent immigration status for all - nearly 500 organizations. Major organizations from across Canada have also

**TEL**  
(514)-481-0277

**FAX**  
(514)-481-2336

**WEB**  
headandhands.ca



written letters to PM Trudeau supporting our regularization proposal. On September 17, 2023, we organized demonstrations in 15 cities in Canada, which were endorsed by over 200 organizations.

- Just Transition and a Green New Deal: A green economy that serves climate, workers and community must be founded on the equality of all residents. By ensuring equal status for all migrants, we would remove a significant barrier to equality. Migrants, including refugees and non-status people, have always worked here — raising our kids, caring for our parents, and picking our food. These are some of the most insecure and exploitative jobs in Canada. But they're precisely the parts of our economy that we need to support and expand: nursing, child- and elder-care, farming, and domestic labor. They are low-carbon, too. We all need to pull together to change our economy and society to avert climate disaster and that requires bringing in those who are currently excluded by immigration laws.
- Take responsibility for climate migrants: Climate change has caused a [25 per cent](#) increase in economic inequality between the richest countries and the poorest. Canada is one of the world's largest [greenhouse gas emitters by population](#). In 2015, it was estimated that Canada's debt to poorer countries for its role in causing climate change was [at roughly \\$400 billion](#). This enormous share of responsibility in causing the climate crisis constitutes a moral obligation to welcome migrants with open arms, and implement climate solutions that get at the root of the crisis and leave no one behind. This obligation is further reinforced by Canada's position as a leader in mining devastation - [75% of the planet's mining exploration and exploitation companies had their headquarters in Canada in 2012](#). The mass degradation of natural resources, ecology, and species extinction connected to development projects led by Canadian companies has led to destruction of land-based ways of life, and mass impoverishment of people in the Global South, shrinking economic opportunities for everyone and creating the conditions for migration to Canada. Many migrants, on work, tourist or study permits, refugees and undocumented people, are here because of climate displacement, not just those from mass weather events. Giving equal rights to migrants is part of paying off Canada's climate debt.

All the best,  
Sophia Harman-Heath on behalf of  
The team at Head & Hands  
3564 ave Benny  
Montreal

**TEL**  
(514)-481-0277

**FAX**  
(514)-481-2336

**WEB**  
[headandhands.ca](http://headandhands.ca)